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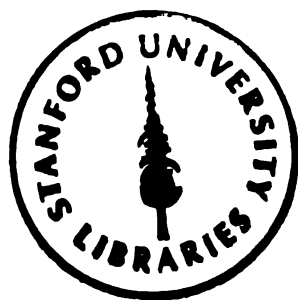
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ALAMEDA COUNTY
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ALAMEDA COUNTY

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ITS INDUSTRIES AND ENVIRONS

ALAMEDA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

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by
Roosevelt Johnson



Of the fifty-three states and territories of the United States, California is third in size, and contains the eighth largest city of the Western Hemisphere.

Directly opposite this city, on the western coast of California, bordering for thirty-eight miles the eastern shore of the Bay of San Francisco, lies Alameda County.

This county, comprising eight hundred and forty square miles, or more than five hundred and thirty-seven thousand acres, has a population of one hundred and eighty thousand. It contains between thirty and forty towns and villages, a half-score of these being incorporated cities.

Gently sloping from the Contra Costa foothills, westward to the waters of the Pacific Ocean, which enter the Bay of San Francisco through the Golden Gate, lies this famous Alameda Valley, probably the most productive district now known.

The city of Oakland, which occupies a most favourable position, almost opposite the entrance to the Bay of San Francisco, is the county seat, and has a population of one hundred thousand.

Other cities of this county of considerable importance are Berkeley, with a population of twenty-one thousand, and Alameda, with a population of twenty thousand.

These cities, together with the towns of San Leandro, Haywards, Livermore and Pleasanton, will be separately described in the following pages. The towns of Piedmont, Claremont, Alden and Fruitvale; Emeryville, Irvington, Elmhurst and Fitchburg; San Leandro, Centreville, Sunol and Mission San José; Warm Springs, Alvarado, Dublin and Decoto; Melrose, Newark, Niles, and many others scattered throughout the county, all enjoy conditions and surroundings similar to those possessed by the cities of which we shall specifically treat.

Alameda County possesses a temperate climate without variations of seasons in respect of temperature. Regarding humidity, little rain falls except during what in less temperate climes are called the winter months. The mean temperature for the year is sixty degrees. The average range of temperature during twenty-four hours is eleven degrees. During an average year the range of temperature is fifty-four degrees; that is, on the coldest day the temperature would be thirty-six degrees Fahrenheit, while on the warmest day it would be ninety degrees Fahrenheit.



AND if the humidity of the air at saturation be taken as one hundred, the average humidity is found to be about seventy-five per cent., with a range, however, from thirty per cent. when the air is particularly dry, to the maximum of one hundred per cent. when it is especially moist.

Of course, these figures relating to temperature and to humidity are subject to slight modifications in certain sections of the county, which is fifty-six miles long.

The average annual rainfall of the county is about thirty inches.

During the months of May, June, July and August, the trade-wind, a cool sea breeze, blows always from the southwest, and rarely exceeds a velocity of fifteen miles an hour, its usual velocity being much less.

The general mean atmospheric pressure is 30.021 inches, sea level. In California, high temperatures are invariably accompanied by very low humidity. On this account such temperatures are not oppressive, and heat prostration is unknown. These general conditions combine to create in Alameda County most favourable conditions for the culture of all varieties of fruits and of vegetables that are grown in temperate or in semi-tropical zones. Advantage has been taken of these conditions, and agriculture and horticulture have been brought to a degree of perfection that has established new standards of productiveness. The general conditions that we have mentioned favourably affect other industries. The mineral products of the county that are especially valuable are rapidly and effectively developed, because in this climate out-of-door work can be done on every day of the year. There is no prostrating heat, no frozen ground, no excessive moisture. The climate admits of all general industries being continuously conducted. Light clothing may be worn throughout the year. No change of its weight is required, since there are no changes of temperature. Mechanics, clerks, professional men or financiers may, if they wish, work twelve hours a day every day of the year. The cool and equable climate braces and sustains one, so that fatigue seldom stops one's labour. These facts are items of great importance, and will be especially appreciated by those that have been accustomed to encounter the hardships of exposure to the intemperate climates of less favoured districts. For in this county are no heavy snowfalls, no useless pumps, no frozen water-pipes. The general hygienic effect of the equability of this climate is evidenced by the remarkably low death rate. There are but ten deaths each year for every thousand persons.

There is, however, no enforced monotony of climate, since, when figs are ripe in Alameda County, the Sierras, one hundred miles east and within a few hours by rail, are covered with snow.



HOMES OF ALAMEDA COUNTY



O the same degree, in Alameda County, conditions are favourable for stock raising. Here stock needs no shelter, and it may feed on the greenest of grass, alfalfa or clover the year round. Here are no house flies, no mosquitoes and no gnats. Here are no severe wind storms and no electrical storms.

Here employment is offered for so many that labour always obtains good wages.

The cost of living in Alameda County is comparatively much less than it is in the East. Rents are low. Vegetables cost about one-half what they cost in the East, and food in general is less expensive.

Since the opening of the large coal beds of this county, and the development of natural gas and oil within its limits, fuel has become very cheap, and in this climate it lasts about five times as long as it does in the East, as there is less necessity for artificial heat. Here food is far cheaper than in any other state in the Union. The cost of furniture and household goods is about the same as in the eastern states.

As almost every fruit that is known grows in Alameda County, it is difficult to determine its average price. Producers grow rich from shipping this fruit, which is naturally cheaper to the consumer here than elsewhere.

The public schools of this county are excellent; and for higher education, within easy access are the University of California, the Leland Stanford, Junior, University, and various business colleges and girls' seminaries.

Land values are very low, when the conditions affecting them are considered.

In Alameda County business property is worth from twenty-five dollars to twenty-five hundred dollars a front foot, the latter price prevailing in the best business districts of the city of Oakland.

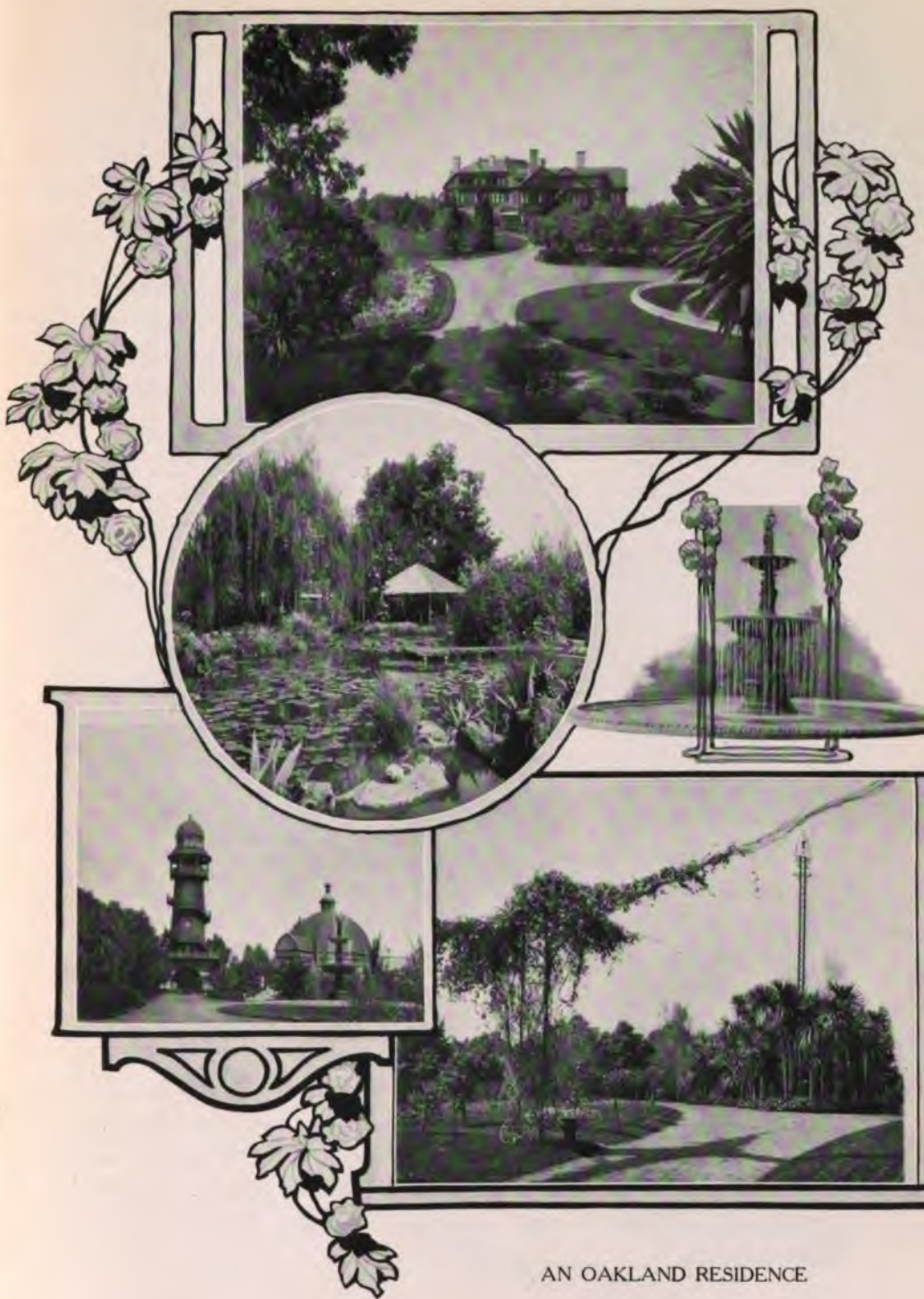
Residence property is worth from five dollars to two hundred dollars a front foot. Improved farm land is worth from fifty dollars to five hundred dollars an acre.

This farm land is always tillable, and can be cultivated at any season of the year.

The vegetable markets of San Francisco, a city of four hundred thousand inhabitants, are daily supplied from Alameda County.

Farming in this county brings an annual net profit of from fifty dollars to three hundred dollars an acre, according to the variety of produce.

None of the products of these farms need ever be stored, as markets are near and transportation is continuous and effective.



AN OAKLAND RESIDENCE



THE character of the agricultural district upon which it depends is an important factor in the prosperity of a community, therefore it is in order to refer to the county's products. Here fruit culture began in California, and here the best of fruits are grown. Here the finest of cherries are grown in large quantities, and nursery stock is sprouted for the great orchards of the state. Here the first beet-sugar factory of California was built. Here large and sweet currants are grown, together with the finest of figs, olives, pomegranates, oranges, lemons, limes, grapes, prunes, plums, nectarines, apricots, cherries, mulberries, crab-apples, peaches, pears, apples, quinces, persimmons, loquats and guavas. Here also grow to perfection strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, gooseberries and loganberries. Many fruits, notably oranges, lemons, guavas, strawberries and raspberries, ripen throughout the year.

Almonds, chestnuts, English walnuts, pecans, beechnuts and hazelnuts are extensively cultivated in this county. The vegetable culture of the county includes over one hundred and thirty products. These are extensively grown, together with the usual varieties of grain and all the products of the farm.

The favourite cherries grown here are the Governor Wood, the Royal Ann and the Black Tartarian. Trees of these varieties produce an average of thirty tons from an acre each year. These cherries begin to mature in May, and are gathered until July. The annual shipment of cherries from this county is greater than the combined shipment from all the other counties of the state. These cherries sell at a regular price of one hundred dollars a ton.

Here both oranges and lemons grow abundantly. Lemons ripen every day of the year. Land suitable for growing lemons can be bought for one hundred dollars an acre. No irrigation is required. Young lemon trees can be bought for thirty-five cents each. One hundred of these trees are usually planted in an acre. These trees, after the seventh year, produce an average of one thousand lemons apiece each year. There is always a market for these lemons at a cent apiece, so that lemon orchards of this kind produce a thousand dollars an acre. These figures form a comparatively low estimate, as, in especially favoured districts of this county, lemon trees annually produce from two thousand to six thousand lemons apiece.

Here all varieties of figs grow abundantly. There are many large orchards where six or more varieties of figs are grown, and where two crops are gathered from the trees each year. These fig trees need no especial care, as bugs and pests do not disturb them.



CHERRY
ORCHARDS



APRICOT trees yield from twelve to twenty tons an acre. These apricots bring from twenty to thirty dollars a ton. Thousands of carloads of apricots are shipped annually from this county.

Pear trees, about one hundred of which are usually planted in an acre, yield annually from five hundred to fifteen hundred pounds each. This yield averages fifty tons from an acre. These pears sell for one hundred dollars a ton.

The land between orchard trees can be used for small fruit and vegetables, and will produce from this source as much as one hundred and fifty dollars an acre.

Here olives grow admirably. Ripe olives find ready market for immediate consumption, or they are converted into oil that is sold at about six dollars a gallon. Quantities of ripe and of green olives are pickled and shipped from here annually.

In Alameda County it is customary to plant orchard trees from twenty to twenty-four feet apart. Between these rows of trees smaller produce is planted. For instance, four rows of currant bushes may be planted between each two rows of orchard trees. These bushes will yield each year ten thousand pounds of currants from an acre. These currants are packed in chests and are sold for about one hundred dollars a ton.

In Alameda County are to be found the largest currant patches in the United States. The size of an average currant farm varies from twenty to forty acres. The deep alluvial soil produces extraordinary crops. There are several thousand acres planted in currants in this county. Local canneries pack thousands of cases of this fruit, and tens of thousands of chests of currants are shipped from the state each year. Both the white and the black varieties are extensively cultivated.

It is generally known that the culture of raspberries requires a rich soil and an abundance of water, so that where a healthy raspberry patch is seen the fertility of the soil is evidenced. In Alameda County raspberries frequently attain a diameter equal to that of a quarter of a dollar and a height of over an inch. In a single season shoots will grow from the bushes to a height of ten feet and attain a thickness of three-quarters of an inch. So luxuriant growth of so exacting a plant speaks well for the quality of the soil. These bushes yield about five thousand pounds from an acre. The average return from an acre of raspberries is about four hundred and fifty dollars, and the local market for them is so strong that the crop is contracted for at good prices six months before it is picked. Many thousands of acres have been planted with this fruit.



FRUIT DRYING



ARGE crops of excellently flavoured strawberries and gooseberries are grown, and bring an average return of four hundred and fifty dollars from an acre. Here ripe strawberries, as well as ripe lemons, can be picked each day of the year. Strawberries produce large and sure crops in all parts of the county. They need no protection, and bear throughout the year berries of the finest flavour. These strawberries often weigh one and a half ounces. Foreign and native varieties of blackberries produce large crops in this county. The soil about San Leandro and Niles is the best in the state for their culture. The improved and finer kinds are cultivated in all gardens. The soft balmy atmosphere, with uniform temperature, naturally brings all fruit to perfection.

Also, peaches, plums, prunes, almonds and chestnuts are largely cultivated, the average value of these crops being about three hundred dollars from an acre. Apples produce a profit of about one hundred and sixty dollars an acre, and grapes eighty dollars.

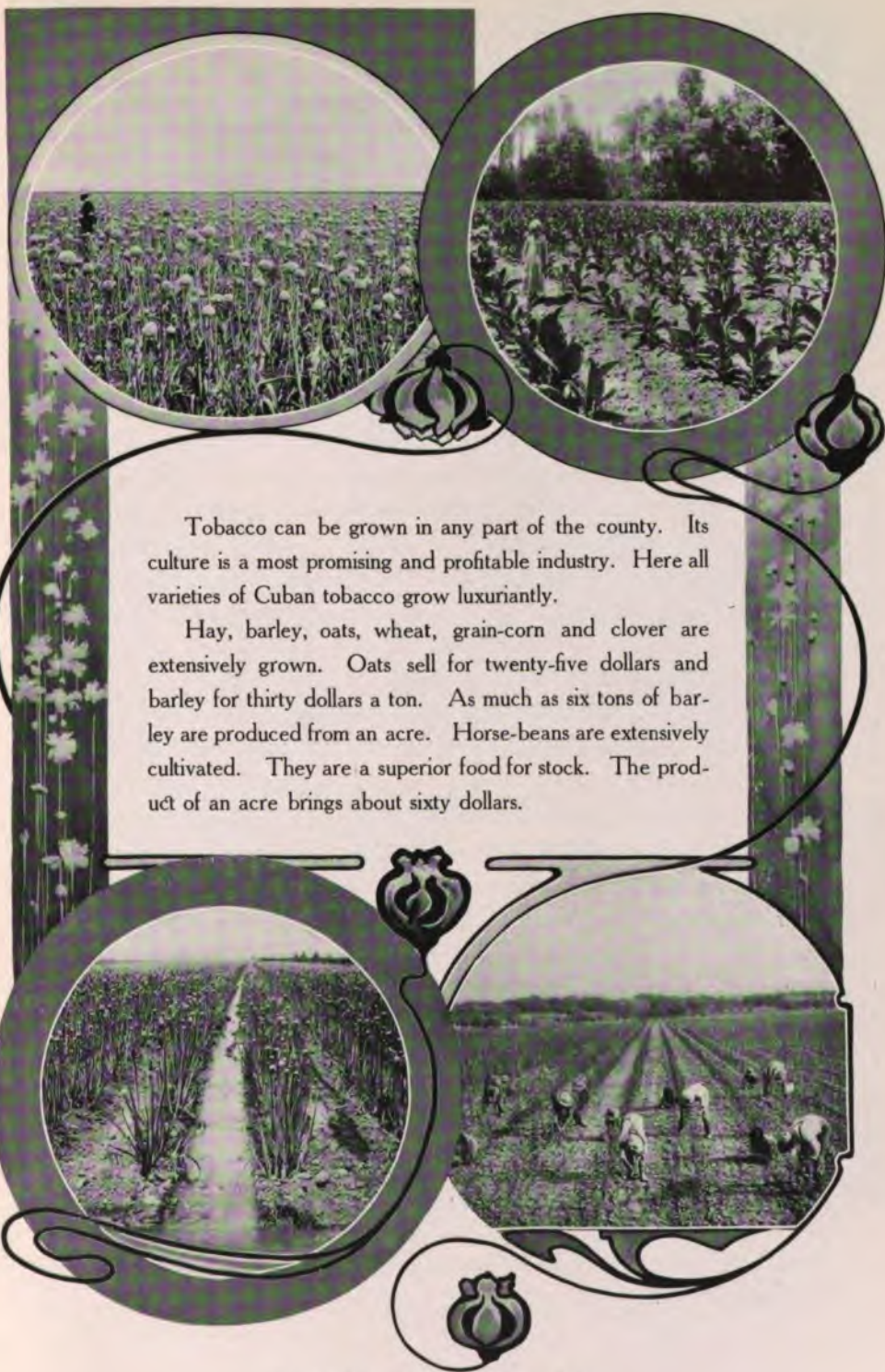
The prolific character of the soil of this county is evidenced by the profusion of its vegetables as well as by its fruit. Fresh vegetables are marketed here daily. Tomato plants, of which fifty varieties are cultivated, grow all through the winter season and produce year after year. Their yield is nine tons from an acre, and they are sold for seven dollars and a half a ton.

The rhubarb industry of the county is very considerable. Rhubarb may be planted either in open ground or between orchard trees. Some farms have it ready for shipment as early as the middle of February. The rhubarb of this county is especially juicy, and has an exceptionally fine flavour. It is very lusty, the stalks often attaining the diameter of a man's wrist. An acre produces about six tons. Its value is about four hundred dollars an acre.

Here watermelons and muskmelons grow to an enormous size. Quantities of cucumbers are grown for pickling. An acre of land will produce eight tons of cucumbers a year. They sell for about thirty dollars a ton.

Three and a half tons of peas are grown from an acre. These peas are sold for thirty dollars a ton, and thousands of carloads of them are shipped from the county annually. Sprouts and cabbages are picked every day of the year.

Asparagus, which is cut from April to July, produces four hundred dollars; pickle onions, four hundred dollars; peppers, two hundred and forty dollars; garlic, two hundred and eighty dollars; potatoes, one hundred dollars; sugar-beets, seventy-five dollars; squashes, sixty dollars; and sweet corn, fifty dollars an acre.



Tobacco can be grown in any part of the county. Its culture is a most promising and profitable industry. Here all varieties of Cuban tobacco grow luxuriantly.

Hay, barley, oats, wheat, grain-corn and clover are extensively grown. Oats sell for twenty-five dollars and barley for thirty dollars a ton. As much as six tons of barley are produced from an acre. Horse-beans are extensively cultivated. They are a superior food for stock. The product of an acre brings about sixty dollars.

TOBACCO AND ONION FIELDS



VIDENTLY land here is too valuable to use to raise grain, and so most of the grain that is consumed is imported from neighbouring counties.

The eucalyptus or blue-gum tree, a native of Australia, grows here with remarkable rapidity. Its wood is used for furniture, carriage wood and fuel.

In this county orchardists operate under especially favourable conditions. No irrigation is necessary. Trees grow throughout the entire year, some varieties yielding two crops annually. The soil is peculiarly productive. It is good for not one particular thing alone, but for everything that will grow in the climate. There is no excessive heat nor cold, and no severe storms to inflict damage. No protection is required for produce. Throughout the horticultural sections of the county one sees on either side of the well-kept roads, orchards, berry patches and vineyards among which may be seen handsome and comfortable homes.

In the early spring the country is pink with the blossoms of almond trees, the air heavy with their fragrance. Each tree is a bouquet, each orchard a flower garden. As one looks, the long rows of trees seem to grow nearer and nearer in the perspective, until finally they blend in a field of solid pink, their purity of colour unbroken by a leaf. Later this appearance is superseded by the white blossoms of other fruit trees, which in their turn yield to the green of foliage, and later to the purple and the gold of their weight of fruit.

Here also the vegetable farmer works under especially favourable conditions. This soil produces from five to ten times as much as the eastern soil. Three times as many varieties of vegetables can be grown in this county as can be grown in any one eastern state. The season lasts throughout the year. The ground is never frozen. The stock has never to be housed. More than one hundred and thirty varieties of vegetables are grown for the market in this county.

The majority of the farms of Alameda County contain from two to twenty acres. However, some contain as many as one hundred acres, and some are even larger. Apparently, the soil does not become exhausted. Twenty years of use have wrought no change in its fertility. The entire surface of the county is covered with a deep layer of sediment-land, rich, fertile and most productive in quality. Climatic conditions acting in conjunction with rich soil produce enormous crops. The climate, warm and moist, never too hot, and with no frosts, is especially adapted for raising fruit and vegetables of exceptionally large size and fine flavour.



PALMS OF ALAMEDA COUNTY



OME time ago the State Board of Horticulture reported that the almost fabulous yield of apricots and of cherries in Alameda County, and the amount realized from an acre for the fruit, gave the first vigorous impulse to fruit-growing in California. Here cherries often attain a circumference of over three inches.

A drive through one of Alameda County's orchards is interesting. Trays are on the ground to be used in drying fruit. Boxes are arranged in tiers. Men are picking fruit, filling boxes or loading wagons that carry the packed fruit to a shipping point. About five hundred carloads of fruit are shipped from the county annually.

Carrots over six feet long and weighing forty pounds have been grown here. Eight hundred bushels of potatoes, some of them weighing more than four pounds each, have been raised in one crop from one acre, while fifteen acres of pea vines have yielded five hundred and ninety bushels from each acre in one season.

The first requirements for the production of a fine quality of wine are a suitable soil and a favourable climate. These, of course, must be supplemented by skilful handling of the product of a select quality of grapes, from the time it leaves the vine until it has been aged and clarified. The commendation of the more fastidious of connoisseurs, as well as the numerous medals that have been awarded the wines of Alameda County when in competition with those of both America and Europe, have established beyond question the fitness of the soil and of the climate of Alameda County for the production of the highest grade of wine.

It is well known that the older a vineyard is, the better is the quality of the wine produced. Yet from the young vines of Alameda County's vineyards, wines are produced that are held high in the favour of those best qualified to judge. It would not have been surprising had this county eventually attained superiority in its vintages; but that in the infancy of this industry it should reach a degree of relative perfection, when compared to the products of the oldest vineyards of the world, is a matter to command exceptional notice.

At the Cresta Blanca, Giersberg, Mont Rouge, Ruby Hill, and Olivina vineyards in the Livermore Valley, where there are over six thousand acres of producing vines, over one hundred and twenty-five varieties of grapes are cultivated. These grapes sell as high as thirty-five dollars a ton, compared with fifteen or twenty dollars a ton in other parts of the state. At Irvington the largest winery in the world is situated. The wine product for the past year was one million five hundred thousand gallons, of which six hundred carloads were shipped from the county.



GIERSBURG VINEYARDS, ALAMEDA COUNTY



T the Cresta Blanca vineyards the wines are stored in tunnels dug from solid sandstone. In these tunnels they find a safe resting-place where they are protected against climatic changes, and are carefully aged.

Of the four gold medals awarded American wines at the Paris Exposition two were awarded to wines of Livermore Valley. Since that time the Cresta Blanca wines alone have been awarded ten gold medals at different expositions of the United States and of foreign countries.

Because of the perfect weather in the Livermore Valley during vintage time, grapes ripen well every year, and thus insure a uniform grade of wine. In France, because of variations of climate, fine wines are made only in certain years, while at Livermore they are made every year. The sauternes and medocs of this locality are especially excellent. When one puts to his lips a glass of the Chateau d'Yquem Souvenir of the Cresta Blanca vintage, one wonders with Omar

* * * what the vintners buy
One-half so precious as the stuff they sell.

Over sixty varieties of olives are cultivated in California. In Alameda County the greater part of the production is of the Mission olive. This is an excellent and hardy variety. Eighty per cent. of this variety is flesh, in which there is twenty-five per cent. of oil.

Ten tons of hops can be grown from an acre, and these hops are worth twelve cents a pound, or twenty-four hundred dollars for an acre's crop. The crop of hops last year from the Livermore Valley alone was 707,621 pounds of dried hops.

The cultivation of cork trees is one of the industries of the county. Three million dollars are expended annually for cork in the United States. A considerable part of this cork is now supplied from this district.

The cultivation of camphor trees is becoming extensive.

Another profitable industry is growing pampas-grass. The long feathery plumes of this grass are shipped to markets where they are dyed, and sold for purposes of ornamentation.

Flax and hemp are now extensively manufactured in this county. Flax grown here is equal to the finest produced in Ireland.

Large amounts of honey are produced and shipped from here annually.

This county contains a wealth of song-birds and of birds of beautiful plumage.



CRESTA
BLANCA
VINEYARDS,
ALAMEDA
COUNTY,
CAL.

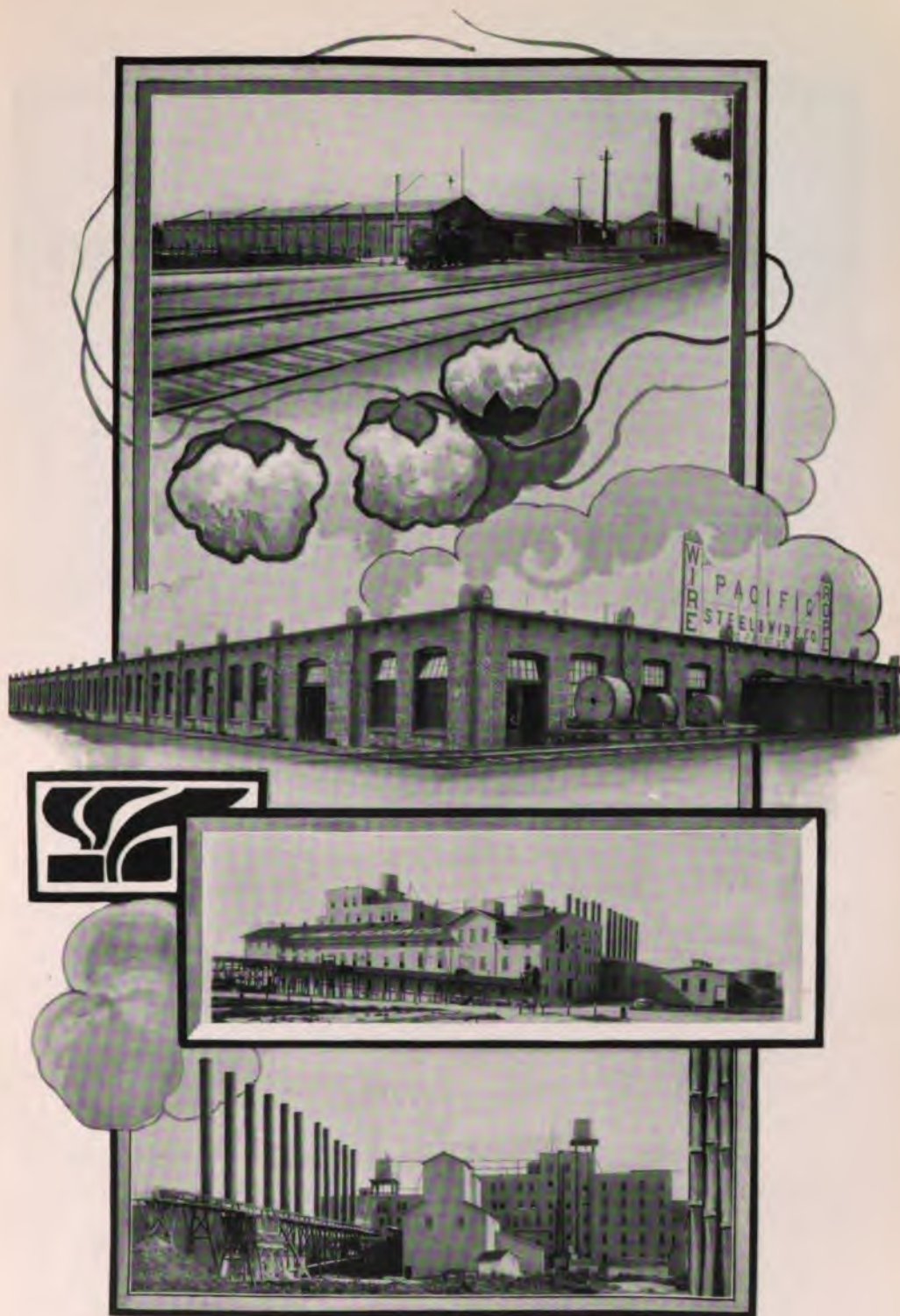


NOWHERE in the world do flowers of all kinds grow more profusely and with less attention than in Alameda County. Roses, passion flowers, heliotrope, fuchsias, magnolias, geraniums, pelargoniums, rhododendrons, pansies, nasturtiums, azaleas, carnations, violets, syringa, honeysuckle, vale lilies, Bermudan lilies, jasmine, sweet peas and scores of other flowers bloom throughout the year in the open air, needing no protection.

Fortunes are made in Alameda County by growing sugar-beets, and fortunes are made by converting them into beet-sugar. Beet cultivation has greatly increased, and the sugar factory at Alvarado has enlarged its facilities.

California was the first state of the Union to manufacture beet-sugar on a commercial scale. Here it has been manufactured for the past thirty-three years. Within her borders is located not only the pioneer beet-sugar factory of this country, but also one of the largest factories of the world. Both of them are in successful operation. The annual production of beet-sugar in California exceeds that of any other state. In the year 1902 the factories produced eighty thousand tons of sugar. The product of the land used for this industry is annually worth \$7,200,000.00. There are eight factories in this state engaged in this industry. The amount invested in these factories, including working capital, is \$20,000,000.00. Beets here average over fourteen per cent. sugar of eighty-eight per cent. purity, and they yield an average of fifteen and one-half tons from an acre.

One of the factories is located at Alvarado in Alameda County. The country in which the supply of beets for this factory is grown is one of the richest districts in the state. The soil is an easily cultivated loam, principally sub-irrigated, and very retentive of moisture. It stretches from the Bay of San Francisco eastward to the hills for a distance of from five to ten miles. Experience has shown this climate to be exceedingly well adapted to the development of first-class beets.



BEET-SUGAR FACTORY AT ALVARADO



THE planting season extends from the first of February to the middle of May. This provides a long period of activity for the factory, which begins operations in August, and has continuously maturing crops of beets to handle. Few factories are so favourably located as this pioneer of the industry, since it is certain of a good crop of beets each year.

In the year 1902 there were in Alameda County over five thousand acres planted with beets. This land produced forty-eight thousand nine hundred and seventy tons of beets, the value of which was \$220,365.00, or an average of over forty-three dollars an acre. These beets were grown by four hundred individual growers.

A valuable result of beet culture in a district is that it increases the production of other crops over twenty per cent.

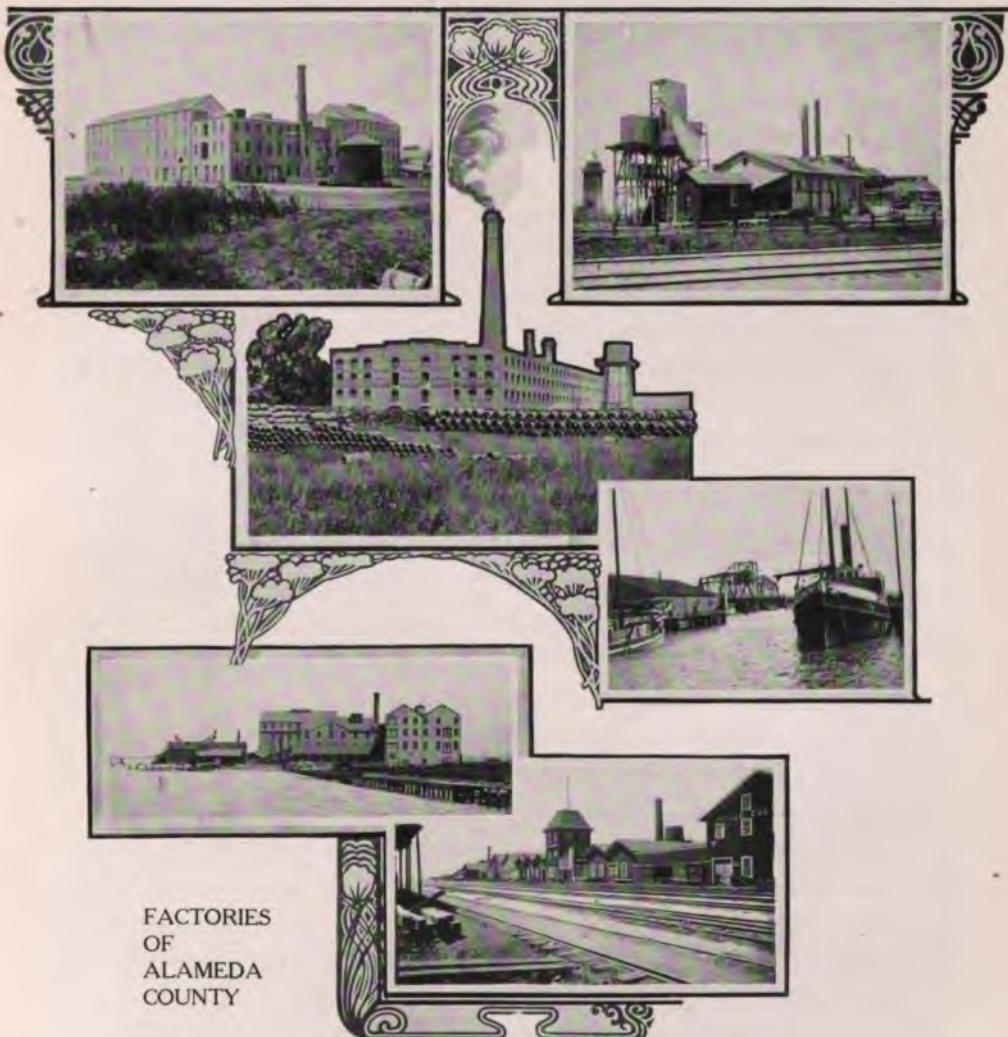
Therefore it is obvious that more attention could with advantage be given to the growth of sugar-beets, since they not only increase the production of other crops as a result of deeper cultivation, but are themselves, with requisite care, a sure crop, with a fixed cash price.

The total valley area of the state of California exceeds twelve million acres. At a reasonable estimate of one and three-quarters tons of sugar from an acre, it would require only about a million and a quarter acres, or about one-tenth of the valley area, to produce the two million tons of sugar estimated to be the present annual consumption of the United States.

All the necessary conditions for successful cultivation of sugar-beets seem to be combined in the Alameda Valley, and in the other level or gently sloping land of the Bay District.

The promise of permanency of this valuable industry makes it desirable that it should be cherished as one of the chief resources of California.

THE poultry industry of the United States is larger than its wheat industry. Sixty million dollars a month are spent in this country for the product of poultry farms. California, in proportion to its population, consumes more of this product than any other state of the Union. The city of San Francisco annually sends to eastern markets more than four million dollars in payment of poultry and of eggs. Alameda County, with its freedom from excessive heat and cold, and with its perennial verdure, is an excellent place for this industry, which is becoming extensive in this locality.



FACTORIES
OF
ALAMEDA
COUNTY



HEEP and cattle are raised here only to a limited extent.

About one hundred and fifty tons of wool were shipped from here last year. About twenty carloads of horses are shipped from here annually.

Of the four hundred and thirty-five species of fish known to exist in the waters of California, one hundred and thirty-three of the marine varieties may properly be called food fishes, as they occur frequently in the markets and are good for table use. The annual product of the fisheries about the Bay of San Francisco is about fifteen million pounds, representing a value of about two million dollars.

The inhabitants of Alameda County are perhaps the most favoured people in the world in regard to their supply of fish, as no harbour than theirs affords a greater variety. Among the delicacies of the local market are more than seventy kinds of fish, notably: White Sturgeon, Green Sturgeon, Quinnt Salmon, Silver Salmon, Steelhead Trout, Tahoe Trout, Rainbow Trout, Cut-throat Trout, Dolly Varden, Eulachon, Surf Smelt, Silver Smelt, Shad, Sardine, Anchovy, Mullet, Barracuda, Chub Mackerel, Santa Cruz Mackerel, Tuna, Albacore, Oceanic Bomto, Californian Bomto, Alleterato, Swordfish, Yellow-tail, Horse Mackerel, Poppy Fish, Mariposa, Sacramentan Perch, Striped Bass, Jew-fish, San Diegan Rock-bass, Banded Ronco, Spot-fin Cracker, Queen fish, King fish, Sea-bass, Weak fish, twenty kinds of Californian Surf fish, Garibaldi, Fat-head, Senorita, Head fish, thirty species of Rock fish called Rock-cod, Priest fish, Spanish Flag, Boccacio, red, black, green, banded and speckled, Skil fish, Greenling, Blue-spotted Greenling, Sea Trout, Cultus Cod, Blanquillo, Kelp fish, Pollack, Tom-cod, Hake, Halibut, Monterey Halibut, and thirty kinds of Flounders. Also, here are the largest and fattest of clams, beds of which extend along the entire shore of the county. No oysters in the world are superior to those grown in the harbour of Oakland. In addition to oysters and to hard and soft-shelled clams, quantities of crabs, shrimps, écrevisse, prawn, crayfish and mussels are obtained here. These fish supply the markets of Alameda County and of San Francisco.

A few miles southeast of Livermore are considerable deposits of chromic iron. These mines annually produce hundreds of tons of high-grade ore. In Corral Hollow Cañon coal veins are abundant. Railroads have been built to these mines from both Stockton and Oakland, and annually thousands of tons of coal are mined and shipped. This coal being cheap in this locality has given an additional stimulus to local manufacturing. Twenty million tons of this coal have been uncovered.





HEMATITE is common in this county, and is used here extensively in the manufacture of paint. Veins of this ore carry gold in quantities varying from one to four dollars a ton. Copper ore is found in the foothills.

Recently within a few miles of Oakland a large mine rich with sulphurets and pyrites was opened. Ore from this mine is furnished to the local chemical works, which use it in the production of sulphuric acid. About one hundred thousand pounds of sulphur are shipped annually from this county. Considerable deposits of manganese are found here.

Here are several good oil wells, and a supply of natural gas, the development of which, however, is yet incomplete.

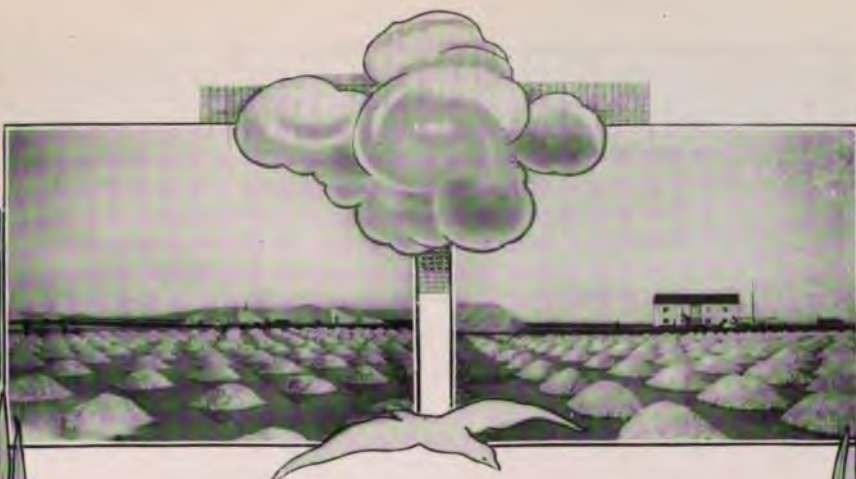
The fishing industries of the northern coast procure their salt from the beds of Alameda County. Oakland harbour is the winter quarters of the fishing fleet. In the spring these vessels load with salt, and in the fall return with cured fish.

By analysis the salt of Alameda County is shown to be superior to any commercial salt now in use. Its production is a valuable industry with a bright and permanent future.

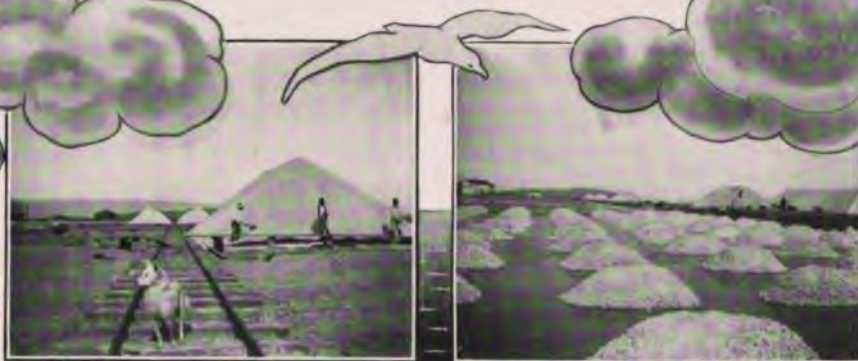
Alameda County's industries comprise, among other things, ship-building, canning, borax refining, the production of druggists' supplies, hides, leather of all kinds, and lumber mills, machine work of all kinds, manufacture of gas and electricity, oil refining, potteries, iron works, furniture factories, car factories, a sugar factory, brick yards, steel works, cotton mills, flax mills, sash and door factories, bagging mills, syrup refining, shirt factories, paint works, tile works, planing mills, foundries, box

factories, engine works, ore sampling works and many other enterprises.





The amount of salt produced annually in Alameda County is one hundred thousand tons. The Californian Salt Company produces and refines the greater part of this, and has the largest solar salt system in the world. The salt of this county is shipped to the northern states of this coast, to British Columbia, Japan, Russia, the Territory of Hawaiï, and to the Philippine Islands. This salt is made from sea water on artificially over-flowed lands. Salt is collected in the summer and piled in great pyramids, some of which contain as much as four thousand tons.





Oakland

BE this my home till some fair star
Stoop earthward and shall beckon me ;
For surely Godland lies not far
From these Greek heights and this great sea.
My friend, my lover, trend this way ;
Nor far along lies Arcady.

Joaquin Miller.





If the terminus of a transcontinental railway be placed at an international harbour, there is the foundation of a great city. Add the fact that nearly one hundred million dollars' worth of commerce is carried on annually in the vicinity, and that ships are coming from and going to all parts of the world, and there are the elements of a city whose size shall be commensurate with its enterprise. Add the fact that this union is on the continental side of a bay that is the natural water-front centre of a state three times as large as the state of New York, and there is before

you the city of Oakland, the county seat of Alameda County, California.

Oakland is one of the most beautiful and picturesque cities of the continent. It occupies a magnificent site on a plateau of the Coast Range, overlooking the Bay of San Francisco and the Golden Gate. Its western and southern boundaries rest upon the water-front, which teems with shipping and with factories, while the residence sections occupy the more elevated slopes.

Situated on the continental side of one of the largest harbours of America, Oakland is destined to be one of its greatest cities. Its situation is beautiful as well as advantageous. The view from Piedmont Heights cannot be surpassed.

Oakland is one of the cities of opportunity that the West is offering to men of the older communities of the East as a field for the same business occupations and enterprises as were offered in those communities during their first great growth. It contains a population of one hundred thousand. It is one of the healthiest cities of the world. It has a mean temperature of fifty-six degrees, an annual rainfall of twenty-seven inches, and a death rate of less than twelve a thousand.

Oakland is growing faster than any other city in California, its population having increased twenty-three per cent. in two years, and its post-office receipts thirty per cent. in the same period. It has a magnificent public library that contains seventy thousand volumes. A granite post-office costing three hundred thousand dollars has recently been erected by the government.

Oakland stands at the edge of a bay whose commerce already amounts to one hundred million dollars annually, and before which is a future likely to make it at least half as great, within the present generation, as is New York. It has the unusual advantage of possessing, beside thirty-eight miles of bay shore, ten miles of frontage on a land-locked estuary, which is as safe for ships as is a sheltered lake. There is abundant room upon the level lands near both shores for railway tracks, warehouses, canneries, meat-packing establishments, and homes for labourers.

OAKLAND is the terminus of all railroads entering the state of California. It lies on the protected side of a bay whose navigation facilities have made Oakland one of the principal cities of the country. It is the natural clearing-house for the wares and products of the state that go eastward, and the natural distributing point for the productions of the East that are bound across the Pacific Ocean.

One of the ablest and best qualified of Government engineers said: "I have surveyed fifty-two harbours for the United States Government, and I have found none of them equal to that of Oakland, California."

In front of Oakland, on the island of Yerba Buena, the Government has established a naval training-school.

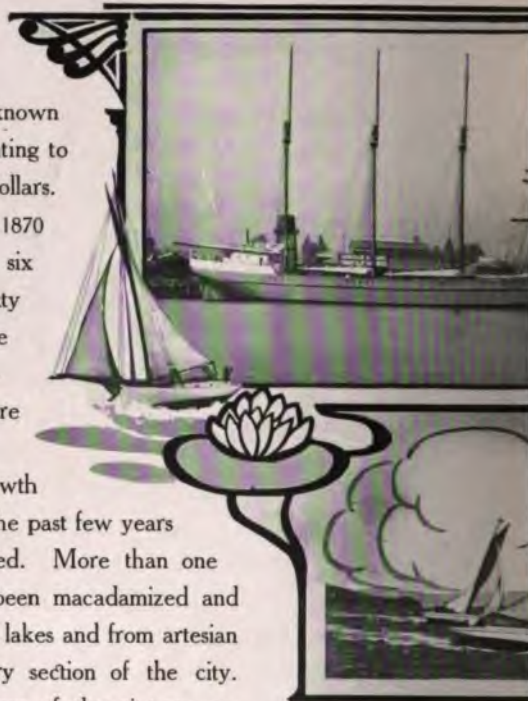
For thirty years local money and local zeal have been applied to the development of the natural possibilities of Oakland, California, and have enlarged it from an oak grove to a city of one hundred thousand persons. Advantage has been taken of the natural marine facilities, and wharves, warehouses, and terminal accommodations have been constructed.

The city's eleven banks, which have never known a failure, have accumulated deposits amounting to twenty-two million six hundred thousand dollars. The city's real estate, which in the year 1870 was valued for assessment purposes at six million dollars, has increased to nearly sixty million dollars. During the year 1903 nine hundred and fifty-seven buildings, averaging in cost five thousand dollars each, were erected within the city limits of Oakland, and during that period the suburban growth was proportionately large. Twice during the past few years Oakland's boundaries have been extended. More than one hundred and fifty miles of streets have been macadamized and bituminized. Water, piped from mountain lakes and from artesian wells, has been distributed through every section of the city.

The home, school, and church privileges of the city are so great that over 10,000 persons daily cross the bay in order to avail themselves of these facilities.

Seven theatres doing a regular business contribute to the public amusement.

Possibly no place in the United States has exhibited so extensive culti-



vation of home resources as has Oakland. Its people have syndicated their street railways. They have built their own iron works and their own cotton mills. Borax and oil refineries, tanneries and potteries, which line the estuary and a portion of the bay shore, are the representatives of home capital and of home products. A majority of the small craft that dock in the estuary have been built by Oakland builders in Oakland shipyards. Than this there could be no better evidence of the city's prosperity and of its possibilities.

Backed by a state of infinite resources, whose water and whose rail arteries converge at Oakland, and fronted by an ocean traffic that is as certain to concentrate in its vicinity as is the traffic of the Atlantic to concentrate in the vicinity of New York, Oakland has a geographical position that cannot fail to impart immense wealth, activity, and power.





THE Panaman Canal, the construction of which is now about to be begun, will, by shortening the distance to be covered, greatly reduce the cost of transportation by water between San Francisco and the Atlantic ports. This reduction will naturally result in a reduction of overland freight charges. Cereals, fruits and wines of California will be afforded cheaper and more rapid transportation to market, so that it will be possible to place them in the Atlantic cities at a cost that will enable them to be sold cheap and yet at a reasonable profit, and so the demand for Californian products will be greatly increased.

An inevitable result of these conditions will be an increased development of the agricultural, horticultural and viticultural interests of this state, and thousands of persons will engage in such industries where now there are only hundreds.

Oakland possesses the advantage of being close to sources of great electric energy. For more than twenty years engineers have been studying methods for converting into power the unlimited supply of water in the large rivers and mountain streams. The first of these enterprises to succeed has been completed under the name of the Bay Counties Power Company, which furnishes electric power cheap, because of Oakland's proximity to its large transmission plants.

Many shipping and commission brokers, whose interests extend around the world, have bought frontage and erected extensive grain, coal, and general warehouses on the Oakland estuary. They are now receiving consignments destined for the East directly from South America, Hawaii, Australia, and other Pacific Ocean ports, and carrying out from Oakland on the same vessels that bring the imports the wheat of California and of neighbouring states.

An extensive plant to manufacture steel wire has been constructed, and large iron and copper reduction works are projected. Nearly all of these manufactories are located at the harbour front, and have the benefit of both rail and water transportation without draying.



MORE than ten years ago ship-building firms moved to Oakland, and began the extensive building of coast and of river vessels. Their operations extended widely, especially in connection with the Alaskan traffic of late years, and they now control an extensive water-front and have vessels constantly under construction, and older ones undergoing repairs and alterations intended to adapt them to the increasing ocean and river business of the state and of the coast. One firm has purchased thirty-eight acres of property on the water-front, and has a ship railway capable of handling vessels of several thousand tons.

The steamers of the San Francisco, Oakland and San José Railway were recently built at an Oakland shipyard, where another steamer is now being constructed for the same company.

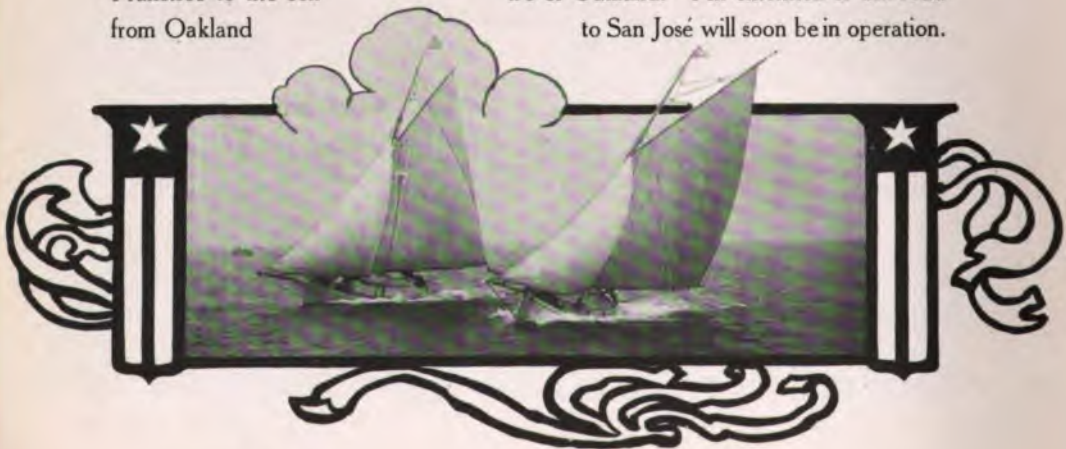


OAKLAND
SHIPYARDS



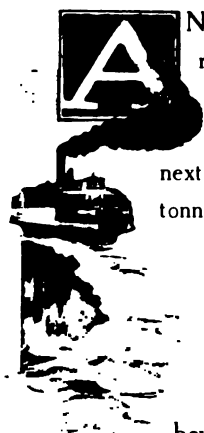
THE street railway system of Alameda County, bearing the name of the Oakland Transit Consolidated, is under one management, and fares are good by transfer over all its lines. It is but a few years since there were ten independent systems of street railways, each struggling for business. Transfer facilities were not known. To-day the liberal policy of the consolidated company gives the public the largest possible service for one fare. This system comprises over one hundred and fifty miles of track, connecting all parts of Oakland, Berkeley, Alameda, Emeryville, Fruitvale, Elmhurst, San Leandro, San Lorenzo, and Haywards, and including all the populous parts of Alameda County. The connections possible under one fare of five cents in Greater Oakland give better service than three fares would have purchased five years ago. Under this liberal policy business is growing, and the value of suburban property is being greatly increased. Extensions have been constructed; new lines have been built in Berkeley; and the town of Richmond has been connected with Oakland by an electric line.

Recently the San Francisco, Oakland and San José Railway has completed its new ferry system to San Francisco. It has built a mole, seventeen thousand feet long, from the foot of Thirty-eighth Street, the centre of Oakland's natural water-front, near where the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fé Railway Company has located its passenger depot. From a slip at the end of this mole ferry-boats are run to San Francisco. This ferry materially lessens the time of transit from San Francisco to the centre of Oakland. An extension of this road from Oakland to San José will soon be in operation.





HOTELS OF OAKLAND



N important factor in the growth of every great seaport is direct railroad connection with the adjacent country. To avoid draying there should be contact between port and railroad. Warehouses, custom sheds and railroad tracks should be at the docks next to seafaring vessels in order to facilitate the annual movement of tonnage, whose extent is the best indication of prosperity.

The eastbound and the westbound freight handled at the port of Oakland during the year 1903 amounted to 4,648,994 tons.

Oakland is the natural continental terminus of all railroads that may yet converge to this coast. Before it is one of the safest and most spacious harbours of the world. Behind it, and beyond the foothills, are immense valleys with almost limitless resources.

The population that is filling these valleys finds a convenient market and distributing point for their products at Oakland. Local trade is quickening. Values are increasing; factories are being built; and electric railways penetrate the hills and tap the rural districts, bringing their products this way to the mutual advantage of city and of country.

Oakland's manufacturing industries embrace several hundred establishments, which employ over twenty thousand men to whom are disbursed over \$1,000,000.00 a month.

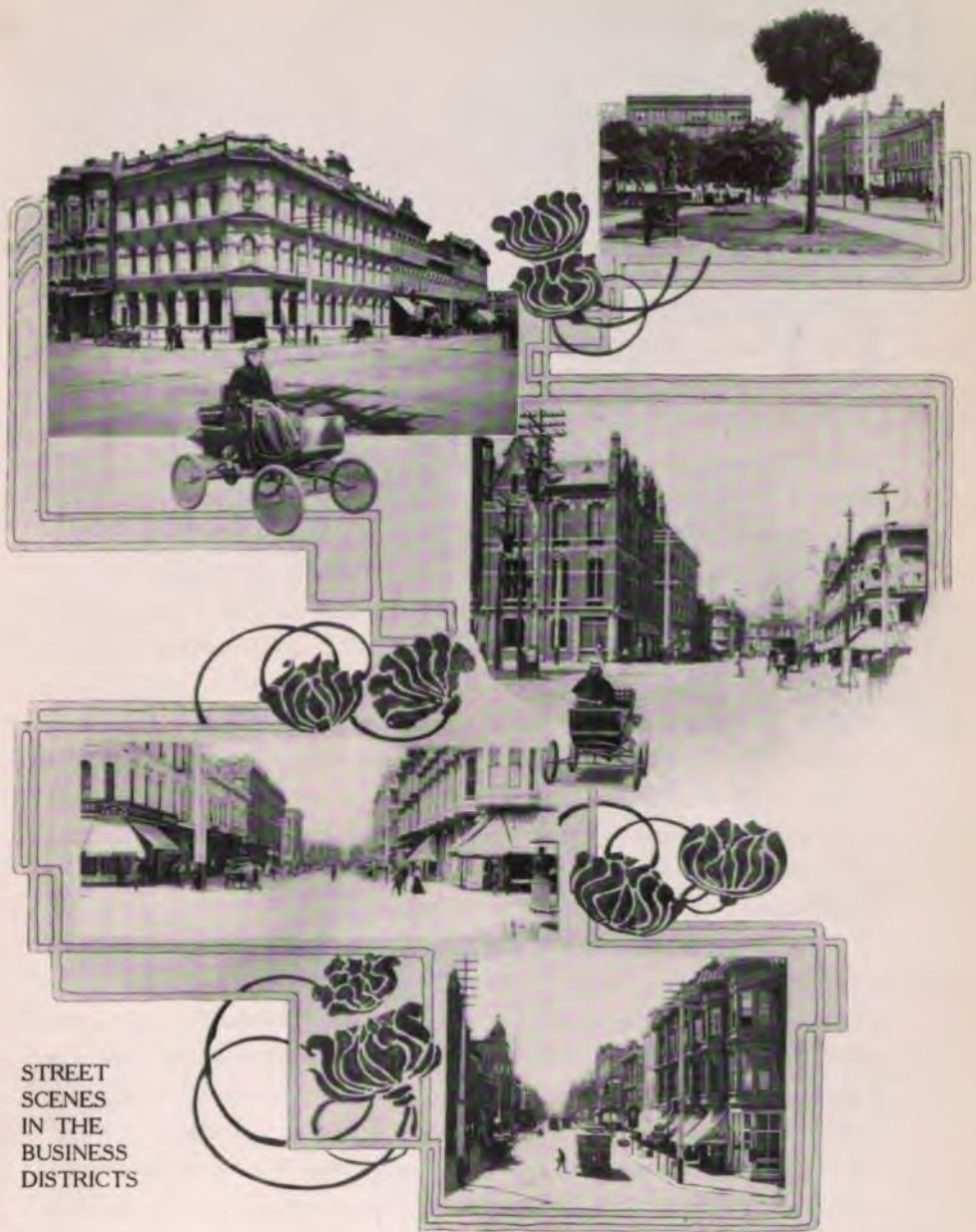
Oakland exports large quantities of canned goods, clothing, chemicals, refined borax, eucalyptus oil, cotton goods, twine, tiling, pottery, wine, and many minor articles.

The chief refinery of the Pacific Coast Borax Company is located at Alameda, an immediate adjunct of Oakland. Up to a few years ago the largest part of the demand for borax in the United States was supplied from this refinery. Its capacity of one thousand tons of refined borax a month requires for its operation a force of one hundred men.

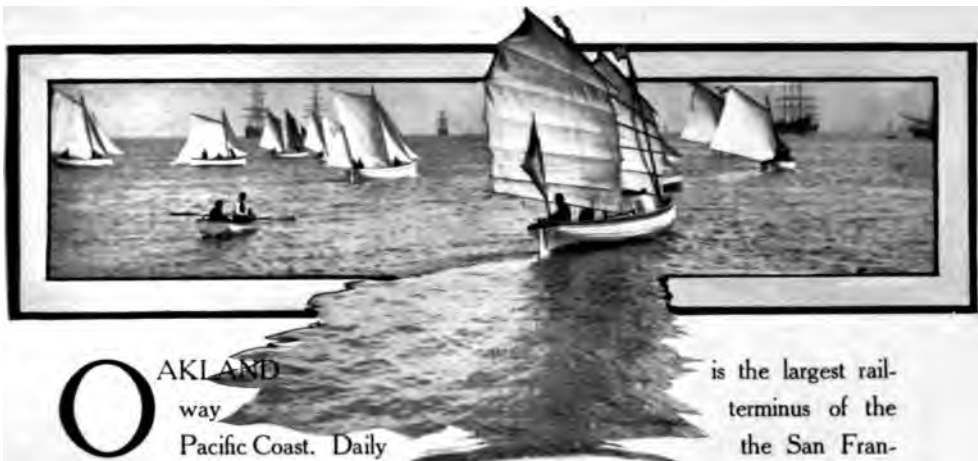
One of the principal Pacific Coast affiliations of the Standard Oil Company has its refinery at Oakland. The Western Meat Company, which is the Pacific Coast organization of the Big Four of Chicago, has its main feeders in Oakland.

The Pacific Coast Company, which is the terminal supplement of the Great Northern Railway, a road that is seeking the most available and serviceable foothold near San Francisco, has recently made extensive improvements on the Oakland estuary.

The completion of the tidal canal has opened a valuable waterway between Oakland Harbour and San Leandro Bay. The large fleet of whaling vessels that cruise in the northern seas annually winter in this harbour.



STREET
SCENES
IN THE
BUSINESS
DISTRICTS

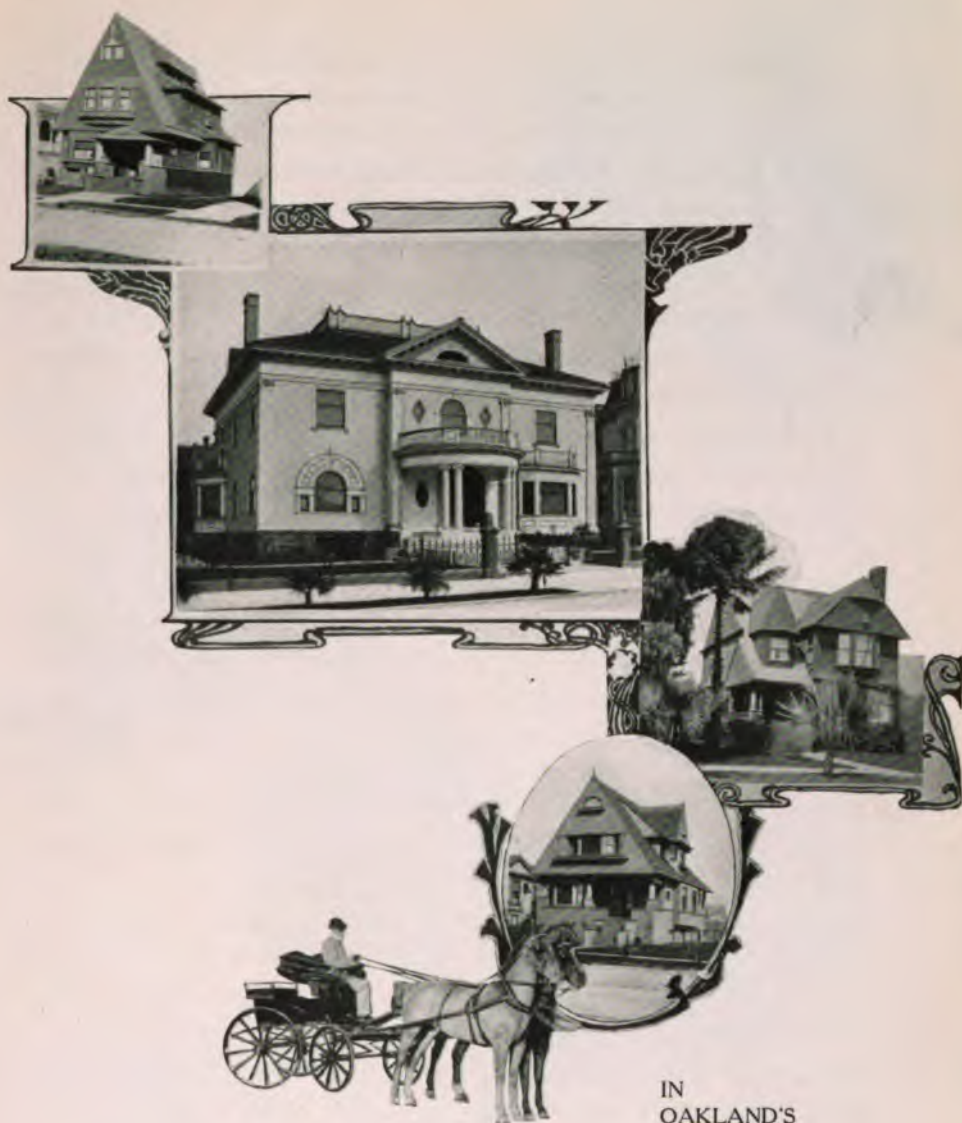


OAKLAND is the largest rail-terminus of the the San Francisco, Oakland and San José Railway runs two hundred and five trains through the city. For thirty years the Southern Pacific and its constituent roads have had their western limit at Oakland. Daily they run four hundred and forty-seven trains in and out of the city, and each month sixteen thousand cars are transported across the Bay of San Francisco to Oakland. These companies operate two passenger ferries that carry the enormous number of thirty millions of passengers annually. They have a pier of solid earth extending one mile into the bay, from which ferry steamers are despatched, and parallel to this a freight pier still longer, from which a great part of the commerce of Oakland is carried on. The shop and yard employees of these companies in Oakland number over four thousand.

Every overland train that reaches the Bay of San Francisco ends its rail journey at Oakland. Four-fifths of the trains connecting with the interior of the state arrive at and depart from Oakland.

Through the circumstance of having acquired its Californian connection from the San Francisco and San Joaquin Valley Railroad, the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fé Railway Company has located its freight terminus at Point Richmond, a few miles north of Berkeley. Berkeley is the northern suburb of Oakland. Between it and the main city is a continuous stretch of water-front, every foot of which is available for wharves, as much so as that part of it on which the Southern Pacific has its immensely profitable pier. Along this stretch there is room for an indefinite number of terminals of both transcontinental and local railroads, and for an almost unlimited amount of shipping.

The Santa Fé has built into the city, and a fourth transcontinental line has just secured a right of way to enter. The entire harbour and bay front are rapidly being girt with railway tracks.



IN
OAKLAND'S
SUBURBS

THE entrance of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fé Railway Company into Oakland, and the building of its large passenger terminal in the northern part of that city, has induced considerable additional development of that section.



HERE is good reason to suppose that other transcontinental railroads than the Southern Pacific and the Santa Fé will soon seek an outlet through Oakland to the Pacific Ocean. The Chicago, Burlington and Quincy has been manœuvring to this end for a number of years. The Union Pacific is expected to branch down across Idaho and eastern Oregon, and to enter California from the north. The Denver and Rio Grande is now in interesting combination with the Santa Fé for the purposes of opening the semi-tropic regions of southwestern Utah, and of bringing the useful wares of Colorado, of Utah, and of Wyoming to the Pacific market.

It requires but a cursory glance at the map of the state to show that Oakland is the only possible terminus for any of these new connections. Its big harbour front affords the only convenient place for terminal grounds, shops, and docks. Its extensive lands afford the best opportunities for investment on the part of railroads in the undertakings collateral to their systems.

With the increase of railroads, as with the increase of harbour facilities, the range of investment possibilities extends. In the interim between the year 1870 and the year 1880, during which the present main line of railroad reached the bay, the assessed valuation of property increased from six million dollars to twenty-eight million dollars, an advance of three hundred and sixty-six per cent. In the fifteen years' interim between the year 1885 and the year 1900, during which the harbour was improved, the valuation advanced to over fifty million dollars.

In contrast with other points, where water-fronts are narrow, where land is high-priced, and where monopolies have already been established, land at Oakland is cheap and it is better for investment than it will ever be again, because of the opportunity offered for choice of location. If an investor seeks to place a warehouse, there is a chance to get the first foothold in a strategic position. If he desires to do ship-building, there is now a minimum of competitors. If he contemplates erecting a factory, there is an opportunity for convenient proximity to railroad facilities.

At the piers of Oakland, the receipts of lumber and of coal from the big redwood forests of the northern coast of California and from the coal and lumber regions of Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia, are increasing so rapidly that the wharves can scarcely accommodate the traffic. Another twelve months of the present rate of growth will make the construction of new piers imperative. Such piers can be constructed as readily by individual capital as by a railroad company.

SAN FRANCISCO'S harbour is already overcrowded. The establishment of the lines of government transports to the Philippine Islands, and to other new American possessions and points of interest in the Pacific Ocean, has absorbed almost the entire dock-room provided by present water-front improvements. Also, a state commission controls the front and makes the charges somewhat prohibitive. Hence Oakland has no competitive port. Its only rival ports are over a thousand miles distant.

Oakland has behind it, as well as before it, where its harbour lies, a fortunate and singular environment. Alameda County, of which it is the county seat, is one of the most productive in the state. It surpasses all other sections in abundance of produce, and resembles Long Island and certain sections of the southern states, but surpasses Long Island and all other regions east of the Sierra Nevadan Mountains in that many of its products are perennial.



SUBURBAN
RESIDENCES



HERE are eight kinds of fruits on the stands of the city in the months of December, January, and February, and during the four summer months, eighteen or more kinds are on sale, all of them grown within the immediate vicinity.

The vegetable-farmer of Alameda County feels that he has done ill if his profits do not run from one hundred dollars to three hundred dollars an acre.

Oakland is the centre of the most productive and highly cultivated fruit and vegetable district of California. Its productions include everything grown in the temperate and in the semi-tropical zones.

There being no droughts in the country, no shortage of water having been known since the region was first settled, the rural property takes on an unusual value, and becomes an exceptional foundation not only for the county's wealth, but also for the wealth of the principal city of the county. The bankers of Oakland attribute their exceptional solvency to the character of the country lands upon which money is loaned, as well as to the condition of the commercial and of the trade credits.

There is an area back of the city that invites investment. Those that wish to reside in the superior climate of Oakland, which is known to be the most equable in the United States, and to avail themselves of Oakland's picturesque landscape and of its excellent school system, can keep their capital employed.

The vegetable and fruit output of the vicinity affords opportunities for increased numbers of canneries and of allied industries, all of which can be located along the water-front, and immediately adjacent to railroads.

Various transportation companies, commission and brokerage houses, and similar institutions have been organized, all based solely upon the resources of the county of which Oakland is the geographical centre.

In the Livermore hills, some miles from Oakland and yet within Alameda County, lie the vineyards from which are produced the famous Cresta Blanca, Mont Rouge, Giersberger, Olivina and other wines of California. This production is an industry that can be enlarged indefinitely through the application of new capital.

There are salt works on the marsh at Mount Eden, within a half-hour's ride of the centre of Oakland, where immense quantities of salt are sacked at small expense.

Inasmuch as there is a marshy stretch south of Oakland many miles in length, further salt works are an easy possibility.



OAKLAND
CHURCHES
AND
THE
CARNEGIE
LIBRARY

IN addition to the many fine halls used by the religious societies of Oakland, of which there are one hundred, there are over forty handsome church edifices.

Oakland has two commercial bodies, the Merchants Exchange and the Board of Trade. The city is well policed and has an effective fire department.

SITES for suburban homes within a short distance of the business district are an inducement that Oakland offers to investors and to capitalists that is not duplicated in other cities of opportunity. The city lies, like Athens and like Florence, with its more beautiful sections running up into the hills, where large homes and spacious villas are numerous. It is a magnificent place for hotels like the famous Del Monte or the Ponce de Leon, the profitableness of which would seem to be beyond question. The climate is never extreme. Here oranges and pomegranates grow. Land is plentiful. Streets, roadways, and sewers, electric lights and gas for cooking and for illuminating, extend over an area of forty square miles, with capacity for practically limitless expansion.

Scarcely any other city of the United States combines the possibilities of business and of residence as does Oakland. A large area of land has the topographical and geographical characteristics inevitably associated with commerce and with industry. An equally large area has the topographical, scenic, and climatic characteristics commonly associated with the best residential districts.

The city limits of Oakland touch the corporate lines of Alameda on the south, and those of Berkeley on the north, rendering Oakland the centre of a large municipal population. In addition, twenty-four towns, all in Alameda County, lie in the immediate vicinity of Oakland and with it form practically one city, all being connected by electric railways.

Alameda County has an excellent system of public roads. The main highways are macadamized, and the streams are crossed by bridges of steel and by culverts of concrete, so that its vicinity is an ideal place for driving, or for the use of the bicycle and of the automobile.

From the hills of Alameda County limestone, sulphurets, fire-clay and cement are taken in considerable quantities. Further resources of the same kind, estimated by experts to be practically unlimited, are available.

Within the past few years, throughout almost the entire state, petroleum in large quantities and easily obtainable has been found. The deposits have been rapidly developed, so that now great quantities of oil are being produced and used by manufacturers for fuel.

This fuel-oil represents a valuable supplement to the product of the extensive coal-fields of the state.





SUBURBAN
HOMES

IN educational, social, and religious respects the city is excellently endowed. The University of California, with its three thousand students, third among American universities, lies in its immediate suburbs. This famous institution has an income of nearly seven hundred thousand dollars a year and has four hundred instructors. It can be reached from any part of Oakland for a five-cent fare. Tuition therein is free.

In addition to the state university, and to over twenty public schools, there are Snell's Seminary, Mills College, Fields College, California College, St. Mary's College, and several business colleges and theological seminaries, beside parochial schools, convents, and many private institutions.



THUS
a point
that are
to discern

Oakland is at
where men
shrewd enough
the opportunity,

and firm enough to invest their money promptly will gain fortunes. There is no doubt of the city's future prosperity.

The fortune of the man that invests now will grow with the city's growth and will be securely associated with its future.

One of the characteristics of Oakland is the large size of the residence lots, which allows abundance of garden, lawn, and stable space, and gives to it an air of beauty.

Oakland has many public squares. In the heart of the city is Lake Merritt, an expanse of salt water one hundred and seventy acres in extent, which furnishes an ideal place for boating, yachting, bathing, and fishing.

Also, there are many parks in Oakland, the finest and most extensive of which are Idora Park, on Telegraph Avenue; Oakland Park, on Vernal Avenue; Leona Heights, on the line of the California Railway; and at Piedmont, the celebrated Sulphur Springs Park.

During a period when the population of the nation has doubled, that of California has trebled, and that of Oakland has increased seven-fold.

Population moves westward. When the Panaman Canal shall have brought the Atlantic seaports fourteen thousand miles nearer by water to Oakland; when the stimulation thus given to Californian trades and industries shall have resulted in a corresponding increase of local population, Oakland should become one of the greatest of American cities.



OAKLAND
PARKS



THE city of Berkeley, the site of the University of California, has a population of twenty-one thousand, and notwithstanding its close proximity to Oakland, possesses a municipal individuality of its own. The distance from the centre of Berkeley to the centre of Oakland is about five miles. Near it lie the towns of Lorin, Alden, Emeryville, Golden Gate, Claremont, and Peralta. From the central part of Berkeley, at an elevation of several hundred feet, the Pacific Ocean may be seen through the famous Golden Gate. The island of Alcatraz, one of the military guardians of the harbour, lies to the left of its entrance, while between it and the Oakland shore lies the island of Yerba Buena, with its naval training-school. Southward lie Oakland and Alameda, and beyond them for miles stretch the waters of the bay.

The city of Alameda is located across an estuary from Oakland, on a peninsula five miles long and one mile wide. It is considered one of the most beautiful and most perfectly arranged cities of its class in the United States. It has more than seventy miles of macadamized streets, and ninety miles of stone sidewalks. Because of the singular beauty of its location, its excellent climate and profusion of flowers, Alameda is a favoured residence district.

Elmhurst, one of the prettiest of Oakland's suburbs, lies about five miles from the city's limits, and among its attractions boasts a twenty-five thousand dollar schoolhouse.

San Leandro, with a population of about four thousand, lies eight miles south of Oakland, in the best fruit district. Thirty thousand tons of fruit and vegetables are shipped from the vicinity of this town annually. Its lemons excel in quality those of any other part of the state. Within the limits of this town is the large establishment of the Best Manufacturing Company, which supplies many foreign markets with traction engines, and with threshing and with harvesting machines.

San Lorenzo lies a few miles from San Leandro, and is surrounded by hundreds of small fruit farms.

Haywards, the garden of Eden Township, is twelve miles south of Oakland, and is connected with it by electric and by steam railways. It has a population of thirty-five hundred, and is growing rapidly. It is situated in the centre of the orchard district, and has within its limits the cannery of Hunt Brothers Company, the largest cannery in California.

Newark contains the car shops of the Carter Brothers.



THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



BEYOND Newark, at Irvington two colleges and the largest winery in the world are situated.

The town of Niles, a few miles further east, contains the famous Californian Nursery which supplies fruit trees for all parts of the Pacific Coast.

At Alvarado is situated the factory of the Alameda Sugar Company.

Mission San José, which was settled more than one hundred years ago, is in the centre of the richest section of the county. Here olives, oranges, lemons, French prunes and wine grapes grow to perfection. Near this old mission are several extremely beautiful country homes. Their lawns are like velvet, and about them groves of lemon, orange, date, olive, palm, and banana trees grow luxuriantly.

At Warm Springs, in the southwest corner of the county, two miles south of Mission San José, are six springs flowing about fifty thousand gallons a day. Their waters contain soda, borax, and sulphur, and maintain a temperature of ninety-eight degrees.

Livermore, with a population of two thousand, lies forty miles southeast of Oakland. It is situated in the centre of the Livermore Valley, which is twenty-eight miles long and fourteen miles wide, and slopes gently amid the low and fertile foothills. Its southern and higher end is valuable for its timber and for its mineral deposits. The coal mines of this district now produce coal that saves Alameda County an annual expenditure of ten million dollars, which was formerly paid for a foreign article. Also, here are produced annually hundreds of thousands of barrels of Portland cement.

This valley seems to be the natural home of the grape, and here are some of the largest, best equipped and most famous vineyards and wineries of the world. A few of these, justly celebrated because of the excellence of their products, are the Cresta Blanca, the Olivina, the Mont Rouge, the Ruby Hill, the Giersberger, and the California Wine Association. The output of wine last year from this section was 1,047,156 gallons. This wine is all of an extra fine quality.

Beets, hay, and barley are produced in this valley, and are celebrated under the name of Pleasanton productions. There are now fifty thousand sheep on the ranges of the adjacent hills. The output of wool for the past year was three hundred thousand pounds, making this county rank third in the state in the production of wool. The mineral resources of this section are becoming prominent, and recent rich discoveries evidence the permanency of this source of wealth.



WINTER IN ALAMEDA COUNTY



THE Phoenix Quicksilver Mining Company has a vein of ore sixty feet wide and very rich. This company is now constructing a forty-ton Scott furnace on its property. In the same section the Martel Mining Company has begun operations upon what has been pronounced by experts the largest single deposit of magnesite known in the world. There is actually a mountain of it, so that it can be quarried like stone. The manganese property of the James Mining Company has great value. Also there are in this section rich deposits of chrome and of asbestos.

The Tesla Coal Company, beside developing the coal fields, has opened beds of clay and reefs of limestone, from which cement is made. Here are found an excellent quality of sand for glass-making, clay equal to that imported from Europe by eastern manufacturers for making sanitary ware, and an immense bed of clay suitable for making fire bricks and other refractory articles. Here one of the largest and most modern of plants for the manufacture of fire bricks has been erected, and about it a small village has already been built.

Transportation to this district is excellent. The Southern Pacific Company is now building from San Ramon to Livermore, and the Western Pacific is pushing work on a new road that will pass through Haywards Pass and Livermore on its way to the East.

Cradled in sunshine and in verdure, at an elevation of four hundred feet, and surrounded by rolling hills, lies the prosperous and progressive Pleasanton Valley.

Few places in this country offer more varied inducements for employment or for investment, either permanent or speculative, than this district.

It is an excellent health resort. Its equable, semi-tropical climate is especially beneficial to those suffering from asthmatic or from catarrhal trouble.

In winter the sunshine is penetrating and warm after rains. In summer it is always tempered by a breeze. There are no heat-strokes, no freezing, no sudden rise or fall of temperature. The seasons melt into one another, making it impossible to tell where one ends and another begins. Flowers bloom from June to June, and roses, violets and lilies vie with one another for precedence.

PLEASANTON is located in an artesian water belt, and has one of the finest water systems in the country. In addition to artesian water, mineral, sulphur and soda springs are found, in some places within a few rods of one another.

The water supply of the valley is greater than the town has thus far been able to utilize. Cultivation of the land, together with its attendant vocations, creates sufficient employment for the present population of fourteen hundred. Considerable capital could profitably be utilized in the conversion of mineral springs into drinking fountains and baths, and of artesian water into swimming pools. Both oil and gas exist in the valley, but, like the water, they lack development. There are indications of sufficient gas to supply the entire district.

Two miles south of Pleasanton, on a slight elevation, with wide-spreading vineyards and orchards, is the beautiful Hacienda del Verona of Mrs. Hearst.

Immunity from frost and from rain at critical periods, the great yield from an acre, and the large percentage of sugar, some of the beets being twenty-five per cent. sugar, are of the things that make the beet industry more profitable in this valley than in any other section of the state.

Of the land immediately surrounding the town of Pleasanton eighteen hundred acres are in beets. From this acreage twenty-four thousand tons of beets, an average of over thirteen tons an acre, were harvested in the year 1903, and were sold at four dollars and a quarter a ton. A large portion of this land yields from thirty to thirty-five tons an acre. From one piece of one and one-half acres eighty-five tons were harvested last year, an astonishing average of over fifty-six tons an acre. Some idea of the size of this harvest can be formed from the fact that three hundred tons of beets were shipped daily from this place for three consecutive months.

Wheat, barley and oats have been most successfully raised on beet land in this valley. Wheat yielded twenty bags of one hundred and forty pounds each from an acre.

There are large brick yards at Pleasanton. The shipment thence during the year 1903 amounted to six million bricks.





A FEATURE of California that is widely and favourably known is the Pleasanton Training Track. Such racers as Lou Dillon, 1:58½; Searchlight, 2:03¼; Anaconda, 2:01¾; Flying Jib, 2:04; Azote, 2:04¾; Alix, 2:03¾; the Director family, including Directum, 2:05¼; Direct, 2:05½; Directly, 2:03¼; and scores of others trained on the Pleasanton track, or bred in the valley, tell a tale of climate, track and fodder. The track grounds cover one hundred acres, and are furnished not only with every commodity and appliance that successful horse-training requires, but with conveniences, natural and artificial, possessed by no other track. The track itself is seventy-five feet wide, and possesses a peculiarity of soil, that, together with an ideal climate and an ample water supply, makes it perfect both in winter and in summer. It is at its best a few hours after a heavy rain. Its three hundred and twenty-five stalls prove insufficient accommodation for the annual applications, and the management is contemplating further additions. This track is well piped, water from the town supply being convenient to each stall. In connection with the stalls are ten paddocks, one hundred feet square, and seven small fields of from three to five acres each for mares and colts.

Pleasanton hay shares popularity with the Pleasanton track, and is shipped to all parts of this country. Often it follows the racer in his travels, even to England, at a cost in that country of fifty dollars a ton. As the valley is almost free from fog, the hay sun-cures. The total shipment of hay from Pleasanton for the year 1903 was eleven thousand tons. The total shipment of grain was a little over fifty thousand tons.

Hop culture furnishes healthful employment to thousands of persons. It begins in February, at the close of the rainy season, with the plowing of the soil, and ends the following winter, after the various stages of cultivation, with the baling and the shipping of the hops.

THE Pleasanton hop yards are the largest hop yards under one wire in the world. Over sixteen million pounds of cable and of trellis wire are used for the network that spans the twenty-foot poles to sustain the weight of the full-grown vines. Twenty thousand pounds of cotton twine annually are required for the climbing of the vines. Thirty thousand gallons of crude oil are consumed during harvest time to feed the furnaces under the drying rooms, and twenty thousand pounds of sulphur are burned in the bleaching of the hops. The plowing of the soil, which is done by monstrous steam plows, the stringing of the wires, the grubbing and the pruning of the old vines, the training of the hardest vines to the twine, and the picking, weighing, drying, baling and shipping of the hops, keep up a continuous succession of profitable labour.

An orange grove with its double burden of blossoms and of ripe fruit is undeniably beautiful, but its beauty pales beside that of a field of fully matured hops. Imagine four hundred unbroken acres, a veritable sea of green, fairylike curtains, twenty feet in length, with thickly festooned tops drooping gracefully over the supporting wire, swaying and quivering to the motion of the slightest breeze!

The climax of hop culture in the Pleasanton Valley is reached when the picking season of four weeks begins. In answer to the call for pickers, representatives of nearly every part of the globe flock to the fields, and pitch their tents or build their willow shacks in the shadow of the near-lying foothills.

The total harvest of green hops for the year 1903 was 2,316,317 pounds. After deducting loss by conversion, there was left a dry harvest of 707,621 pounds.

Sunol, about six miles south of Pleasanton, is a camping-ground for surrounding cities and towns. esque glen, and Alameda Creek, filled with speckled trout, epicure as well as to the angler.



Cottages dot its picturesque glen, and Alameda Creek, filled with speckled trout, offers attraction to the





THE residents of Alameda County enjoy, among other advantages, that of a comprehensive and modern public school system. It begins with the kindergarten and finishes with graduation from the University of California. Evening schools furnish opportunities for supplementary education. The design and intention of the school authorities are to give to every one in the county an opportunity for an extended education. The best talent that can be obtained is used, and the facts of good wages, a fine climate, life among refined and educated people, and the advantages that flow from the inevitable influence of a great state university are among the considerations that influence the best educators in their choice of Alameda County as the sphere of their work and of their influence. Brain, mind and energy are centred here, and the youth of our eight hundred and forty square miles of territory reap the benefit of many advantages.

South of and bounding Alameda County lies Santa Clara County, from which rises Mount Hamilton, bearing on its crest the famous Lick Observatory. East of and bounding Alameda County lies San Joaquin County, the centre of the wheat industry of the state. Northward, and bounding it, lies Contra Costa County, whose highest point, Mount Diablo, is a base and a meridian.

In this beautiful section dwell one hundred and eighty thousand intelligent, industrious, progressive and happy Americans. Thirty-five thousand of this number are between the ages of five and seventeen years. These are designated, when speaking of school affairs, the census population. More than six hundred teachers are engaged in instructing these pupils, and in many of the schools the little ones in the kindergarten are studying under the same general supervision as the older members of the family in the work of the eighth year.

Nearly all the schools maintain a ten months' term. The limits of a pupil's opportunity are his ambition and his strength.

Public sentiment is with the cause of education. Unanimity of feeling exists and makes it easy to raise money for educational purposes.



SCHOOLS
OF
ALAMEDA
COUNTY

DURING the year ending June 30, 1903, the county school levy produced two hundred and thirty-six thousand dollars. This year, ending June 30, 1904, the county school fund will be more than a quarter of a million dollars. The total amount provided for the public schools of Alameda County for the school year ending June 30, 1904, was \$947,525.00.

Alameda County has seven high schools. During the present school year these schools will receive from the state twenty-eight thousand dollars, a sum greater than any other county, or city and county, in the state will receive for a similar purpose. Most of the high schools are on the accredited list. They send graduated pupils to the state university without examination. No high schools in the state excel them.



COMMERCIAL schools and schools of manual training are receiving increased attention. Provision has been made for erecting in the city of Oakland a manual training building to cost one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

Berkeley and Alameda are increasing their facilities in this department, and soon the whole Pacific Coast will be furnishing this form of practical education.

The Polytechnic High School of Oakland has taken rank, in what its course of study covers, with the best schools of the state, and when its new one hundred and fifty thousand dollar building is finished the course in all departments will be complete. All classes of citizens are united in a determination to keep this in the front rank of real schools.

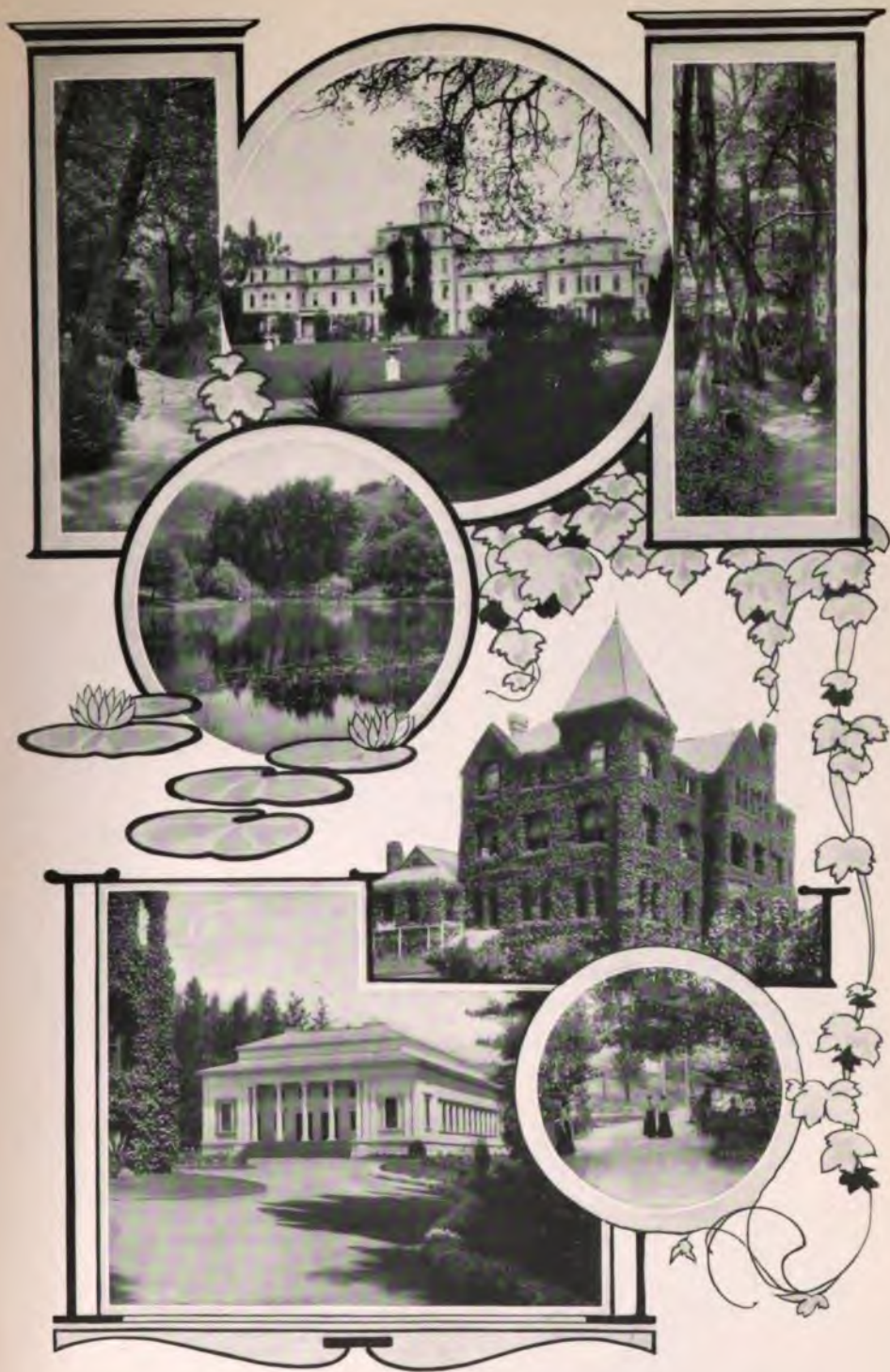
The deaf-mutes and the blind are cared for and educated in a state institution at Berkeley, just north of Oakland, while in the latter city a class for deaf-mutes receives all whose parents prefer home life for their afflicted ones.

Also in Berkeley the state school for the juvenile blind and for the juvenile deaf-mutes is located. Children that find a home at this institution are tenderly cared for.

The Home of Mechanical Trades for the Adult Blind, located in Oakland, furnishes home and employment for over a hundred blind men and women. They are not passing their time in idleness, but are at work, busy and contented.

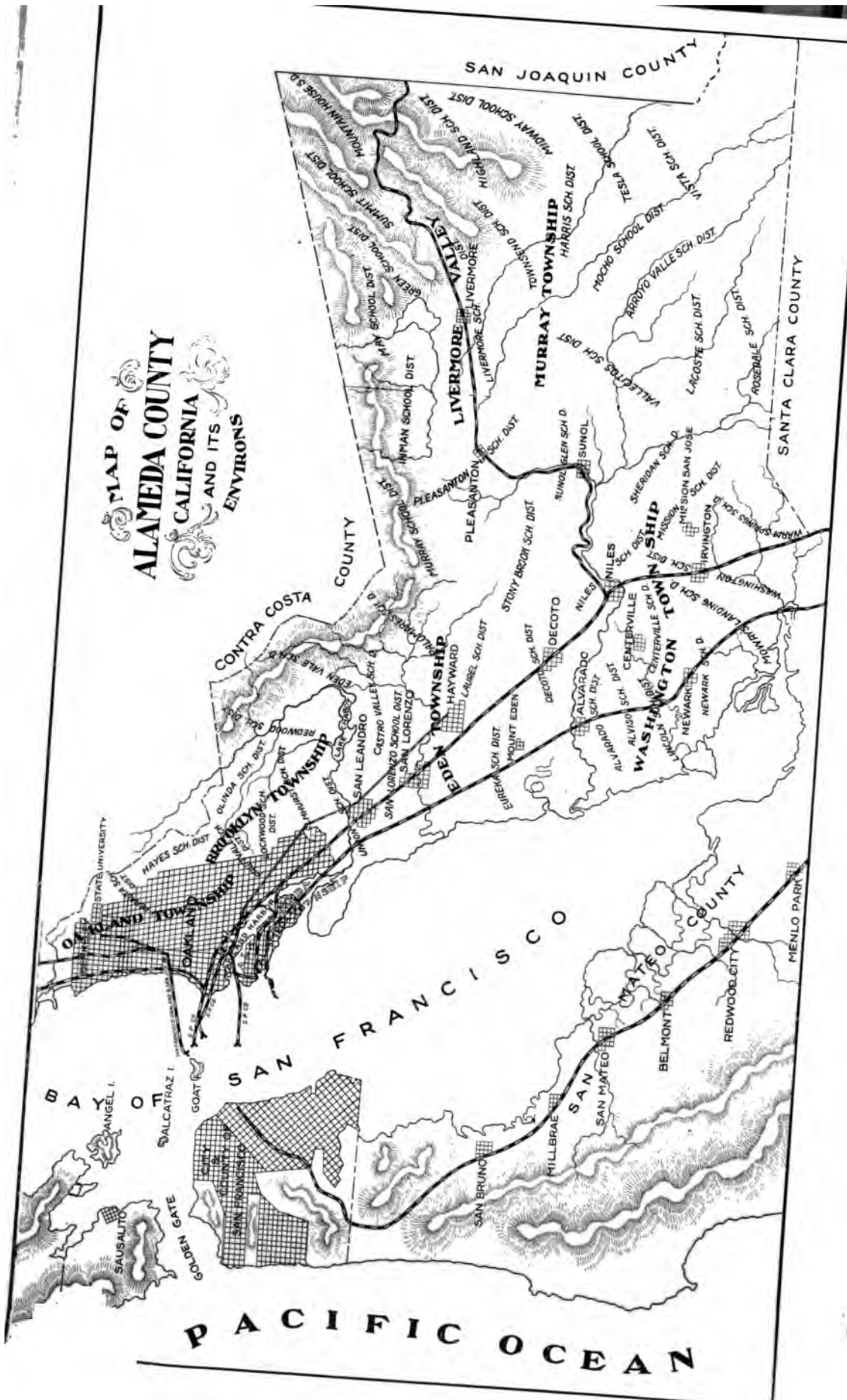
There are few private schools in Alameda County. Those that we have commend themselves to parents that prefer them to public schools. To know that a private school in Alameda County flourishes is to know that it is on a high plane. The few that there are are among the best in the land, and persons graduated from them are recognized everywhere as being well educated.

The kindergartner may advance from his school to graduation from the university without having left the public school system of California. The educational advantages that the university offers are within the reach of all parts of the country. Hundreds of students leave their homes in Oakland, Alameda, or San Francisco in the morning, spend the day in Berkeley, and return in the afternoon. More than three hundred trips of electric and of steam cars during the day afford means of reaching and of leaving the state university.



MILLS COLLEGE, OAKLAND

MAP OF ALAMEDA COUNTY CALIFORNIA AND ITS ENVIRONS





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